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NEWS RELEASE

April 24, 1998

Contact: Wendy Moore, watershed education program coordinator, Montana Natural History Center, (406) 243-6642 or (406) 273-2446.

WATERWISE FAIR OFFERS INTERACTIVE EXHIBITS, TOURS, MUSIC AND MORE MISSOULA--

The banks of the Clark Fork River will be the site of the first-ever WaterWise Fair, featuring educational exhibits, garden tours, live music and food booths for the whole family to enjoy.

The fair will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, May 1, at the WaterWise Garden and Clark Fork Native Prairie, located east of Higgins Avenue at the end of Fourth Street near the Missoulian.

The WaterWise Fair is presented in conjunction with the Clark Fork Watershed Festival, which will bring nearly 800 sixth-graders from seven Missoula-area schools to McCormick Park for water quality education on April 30 and May 1. Both events are sponsored by the Montana Natural History Center at The University of Montana-Missoula.

The fair's namesake, the WaterWise Garden, demonstrates water-saving landscaping techniques, while the Clark Fork Native Prairie is a restoration project that focuses on native plants. Thirty-minute tours of both gardens will be offered at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., noon and 1 p.m.

Some 20 interactive, educational exhibits on water quality will be offered at the WaterWise Fair, with topics ranging from the Missoula aquifer and historical photographs of Missoula floods to water conservation ideas for home and garden. Also represented will be pro and con factions of currently proposed gold mines.

“People can come to the fair to enjoy and learn from interactive exhibits and take home some useful information about being a good watershed citizen,” said Wendy Moore, director of the event. “They can get good ideas for protecting the watershed, beginning with their own backyard.”

Live music will be provided from noon to 2 p.m. by local musicians John Floridis and Michael Moore. The fair is free and open to the public. Lunch may be purchased from food booths operated by several vendors.

Parking is available at Milwaukee Station; it's a short walk under the Higgins Avenue Bridge from there to the WaterWise Fair location. For more information, call Wendy Moore at 273-2446.

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